

THE BOTTOM LINE



...on COLA and Deployments

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The Issue:

Some soldiers and family members believe that Cost of Living Allowance, or COLA, stops upon deployment of a soldier.

The Facts:

When a soldier deploys, all allowances remain in effect. These allowances could include COLA, Basic Allowance for Subsistence, and Basic Allowance for Housing, or Overseas Housing Allowance. In addition, a Family Separation Allowance of \$100 per month starts for soldiers deployed longer than 30 days. However, if a family returns to CONUS and stays away **longer than 30 days**, COLA is changed to the “without dependents” rate. The commander or the soldier will have to submit personnel action forms (DA 4187) to change COLA entitlement when family is away **longer than 30 days** and again when the family returns to USAREUR. Families departing for 30 days or less do **not** suffer a COLA entitlement interruption. Family Separation Allowance is a soldier entitlement based on separation from family and is not affected by family movement.

Tell Your Soldiers:

- Families that stay in theater keep all the allowances, to include COLA at the “with dependents” rate, that they would normally get.
- Submit a DA Form 4187 thru PAC to finance to change COLA entitlement when family members return to CONUS for **more than 30 days** and again when family members return to USAREUR.
- Families will not be reimbursed for traveling to and from CONUS without orders.
- Commands and communities in USAREUR are devoting much time and effort to supporting families of deployed soldiers.

For More Information:

For more guidance on entitlements in USAREUR, contact your local finance office or the 266th Finance Command, Policy Branch, CPT Susan Walton, DSN 379-7587/5164.

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